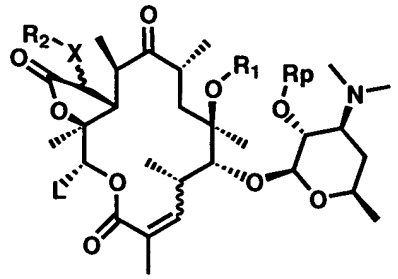
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound represented by the formula



(I)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters and prodrugs thereof,

wherein

L is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) $-CH(OH)CH_3$;

(2) C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

(3) C_2-C_6 alkenyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl; and

(4) C_2-C_6 alkynyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl and C_2-C_6-alkynyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

(1) halogen;

(2) aryl;

(3) substituted aryl;

(4) heteroaryl;

(5) substituted heteroaryl;

(6) -O-R_5, where R_5 is selected from the group consisting of:

a. hydrogen;

b. aryl;

c. substituted aryl;

d. heteroaryl; and

e. substituted heteroaryl;

(7) -O-C_1-C_6-alkyl-R_5, where R_5 is as previously defined;

(8) -O-C_2-C_6-alkenyl-R_5, where R_5 is as previously defined;

(9) -O-C_2-C_6-alkynyl-R_5, where R_5 is as previously defined; and

(10) -NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; C_1-C_6-alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic; C_2-C_6-alkenyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic; and C_2-C_6-alkynyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic; or R_6R_7 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are connected form a 3- to 7-membered ring which may optionally contain one or more hetero functions selected from the group consisting of –O-, -NH-, -N(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-, -N(aryl)-, -N(heteroaryl)-, -S-, -S(O)- and –$S(O)_2$-;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) hydrogen;

(2) C_1-C_6-alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

a. halogen;

b. aryl;

c. substituted aryl;

d. heterocyclic;

e. substituted heterocyclic;

f. -O-R_3, where R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

i. hydrogen;

ii. aryl;

iii. substituted aryl;

iv. heteroaryl; and

v. substituted heteroaryl;

g. -O-C_1-C_6-alkyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

h. -O-C_2-C_6-alkenyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

i. -O-C_2-C_6-alkynyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined; and

j. –NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7 are as previously defined;

(3) C_2-C_6-alkenyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

a. halogen;

b. aryl;

c. substituted aryl;

d. heterocyclic;

e. substituted heterocyclic;

f. -O-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

g. -O-C_1-C_6-alkyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

h. -O-C_2-C_6-alkenyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

i. -O-C_2-C_6-alkynyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined; and

j. –NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7 are as previously defined; and

(4) C_2-C_6-alkynyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

a. halogen;

b. aryl;

c. substituted aryl;

d. heterocyclic;

e. substituted heterocyclic;

f. -O-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

g. -O-C_1-C_6-alkyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

h. -O-C_2-C_6-alkenyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined;

i. -O-C_2-C_6-alkynyl-R_3, where R_3 is as previously defined; and

j. –NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7 are as previously defined;

X is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) S(O)n, where n is 0, 1, or 2;

(b) O; and

(c) NR_5, where R_5 is as previously defined;

and

Rp is hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein L is CH_2CH_3, X is –S-, R_1 is CH_3 and R_2 and Rp are as defined in Claim 1.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:

Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = S, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = 2-[6-(dimethylamino-methyleneamino)purin-9-yl]-ethyl and Rp = H;

Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = S, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = 2-(6-amino-purin-yl)-ethyl and Rp = H;

Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = S, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = 3-(3-pyridinyl)-1*H*-pyrazole-ethyl and Rp = H;

Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = S, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = [3-(3-pyridinyl)-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl]-ethyl and Rp = H;

Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = S, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = = [4-(3-pyridinyl)-1*H*-imidazole]-1-ethyl and Rp = H; and

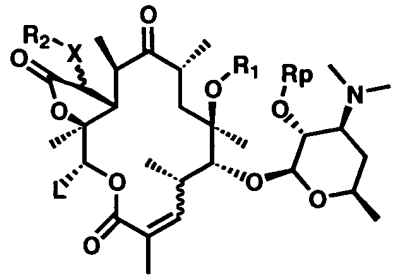
Compound of formula (I): L = CH_2CH_3, X = O, R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = CH_2CH_2-phenyl and Rp = H.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. A method for controlling a bacterial infection in an animal comprising

administering to an animal a therapeutically-effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 4.

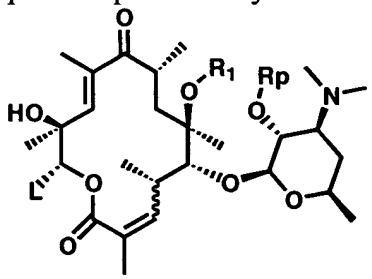
6. A process for preparing a compound represented by the formula



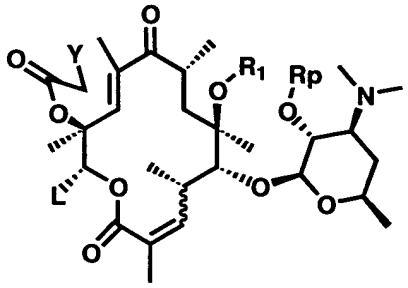
(I)

wherein L, X, R_1, R_2, and Rp are as defined in Claim 1,
the method comprising

(a) acylating a compound represented by the formula



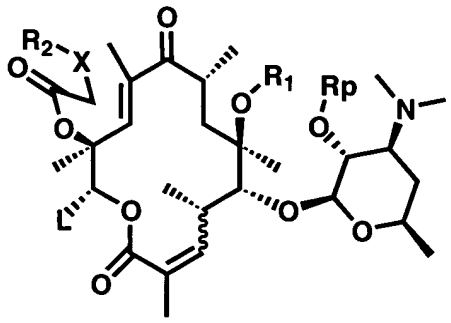
wherein L and R_1 are as defined in Claim 1 and Rp is a hydroxy protecting group,
by reaction with a carboxylic acid, optionally in the presence of a catalyst, optionally in the presence of a dehydration reagent and optionally in the presence of a base in an aprotic organic solvent to provide a product represented by the formula



wherein L, R_1, and Rp are as defined in Claim 1, and where Y is halogen;

(b) reacting a compound from step a with an anion of R_2-X-M where R_2 and X are as defined in Claim 1, Rp is a hydroxy protecting group and M is sodium, potassium, or lithium, or R_2-X-H in the presence of a base in the presence of an aprotic solvent at a

temperature from –20°C to 50°C for 1-48 hours to provide compound represented by the formula



wherein L, R_1, R_2, Rp and X are as defined in Claim 1; and

(c) reacting a compound from step b with a base in organic solvent to effect cyclization to provide a compound of formula (I).